II. REMARKS

Before the amendments made herein, claims 1 to 105 were pending. Claims 1 to 70 and 80 to 84 are cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 106 to 109 are added herein. Accordingly, after the amendments made herein are entered, claims 71 to 79 and 85 to 109 will be pending.

Regarding the amendments:

The amendments to the claims already pending were made to conform to the restriction election, as discussed below, or due to a minor change. In any event, these amendments are supported throughout the specification as filed.

In addition, new claims 106 to 109 are directed to specific PCNA sequences and ribozymes specific to them. These claims are supported in the specification, for example, in Table 3 (page 20), Table 17 (page 26) and Example 3 (pages 28-29). Because the amended and new claims are fully supported by the specification, no issue of new matter arises.

Regarding the restriction:

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect examination of Group L (i.e., Group 50), which is directed to cyclic PCNA.

III. CONCLUSION

In light of the Remarks herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance and requests a notice to this effect. Should the Examiner have any questions, she is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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David I. Spolter
Registration No. 36,933
Telephone No. (858) 459-2934
Facsimile No. (858) 459-0698

LAW OFFICE OF DAVID SPOLTER
1590 Coast Walk
La Jolla, California 92037

Claim amendments (marked up version):

71. (Amended) A method of treating a proliferative eye disease, comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of ribozyme which cleaves RNA encoding ~~a cytokine involved in inflammation, a matrix metalloproteinase,~~ a cyclin PCNA, ~~a cellcycle dependent kinase, a growth factor, or a reducatse~~ such that said proliferative eye disease is treated.

72. (Amended) A method of treating a proliferative eye disease, comprising administering to patient an effective amount of nucleic acid molecule comprising a promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid segment encoding a ribozyme which cleaves RNA encoding ~~a cytokine involved in inflammation, a matrix metalloproteinase,~~ a cyclin PCNA, ~~a cellcycle dependent kinase, a growth factor, or a reducatse~~ such that said proliferative eye disease is treated.

85. (Amended) The method according to claim 71 or 72 wherein said ribozyme or nucleic acid molecule is administered intraocularly.

86. (Amended) The method according to claim 71 or 72 wherein said ribozyme or nucleic acid molecule is formulated within a solution.

99. (Amended) The method according to claim 71 wherein said ribozyme ~~is composed of~~ comprises ribonucleic acids.

101. (Amended) The method according to claim 71 wherein said ribozyme ~~is composed of a mixture~~ comprises deoxyribonucleic acids and ribonucleic acids.

102. (Amended) The method according to claim 71 wherein said ribozyme ~~is composed of~~ comprises nucleic acids having phosphothioate linkages.

103. (Amended) The method according to claim 71 wherein said ribozyme ~~is composed of~~ comprises nucleic acids having phosphothioate linkages.

105. (Amended) The method according to claim ~~72~~ 104 wherein said viral vector is generated from a virus selected from the group consisting of retroviruses, adenoviruses~~,~~ and adeno-associated viruses.